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SEP 28 1957

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: Washington Disaster Communications

1. The Office of Communications is charged with the responsibility for providing and maintaining an adequate emergency communications network. In meeting this responsibility, I have, of necessity, given prior importance to the establishment of inter-Agency communications. However, the equally important intra-Agency communications requirements, inherent in the Washington Disaster Plan, cannot be minimized. These singular requirements, principally the command circuits between Room 2, Administration Building, the White House, [REDACTED] are satisfied through the use of high frequency and very high frequency communications systems.

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2. The high frequency and very high frequency systems were originally established on a temporary basis. My Engineering Division has spent considerable time and effort in improving and modernizing these systems. This program has been accomplished, and the Engineering Division is now engaged in preparing plans and designs for permanent antennas.

3. Under current planning, Room 2, Administration Building, is intended to function immediately in the event of a disaster as your command and communications center. The nature of the circuits emanating from this center demands a high quality antenna installation. Unfortunately, the North, South, and Administration Building complex is not a location conducive to the erection of a high quality antenna farm. However, in spite of this situation my Engineering Division has accomplished a workable antenna design.

4. The exploitation of this design will require the erection of an antenna farm on the roof tops of North, South, and Administration Buildings, thereby involving questions of additions or modifications to monumental buildings. Current policy requiring such additions has been investigated. Mr. [REDACTED] of your staff has rendered the opinion that the approval of the Fine Arts Commission must be obtained for this construction. Mr. [REDACTED] has suggested that the matter be referred to your office for action.

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Accordingly, I am forwarding a portfolio of preliminary drawings showing the general nature of the installation. This portfolio should be useful to your staff in their efforts to gain approval for this construction.

5. I hesitate to press for early action in this matter since it concerns minor details, however, these command circuits are an important adjunct to the overall communications plan, and we cannot assume an adequate emergency communications network until this work is accomplished. You are advised that personnel of my Engineering Division are available to discuss this matter with your staff as the occasion or need arises.

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Assistant Director for Communications

ATTACHMENTS:

Two (2) Portfolios of Preliminary Drawings.

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